

**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
APRIL 28, 2010 MINUTES**

The Human Relations Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular Human Relations Advisory Board Meeting April 28, 2010, 6:00 p.m. in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Terry Benelli, Chair
Craig Cuillard
Stacey Dillon
Rory Gilbert
Denise Heap
Everette Woods
Craig Cuillard

MEMBERS ABSENT

James May
Ana Cadillo
Hong Chartrand

STAFF PRESENT

Mary Berumen
Jennifer Hedges

GUESTS

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Ms. Benelli welcomed audience and board.

2. Approval of minutes from the March 24, 2010 board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Woods to approve the March 24, 2010 Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) minutes. Ms. Heap seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Items from Citizens Present.

No items from citizens present.

4. Hear an update from Natalie Lewis, Assistant to the City Manager, regarding the City of Mesa Council Strategic Initiatives.

In Ms. Lewis's absence, Ms. Berumen briefly explained that the Strategic Initiatives represent the Council's long-term vision for Mesa. She described the five areas that the council will focus for 2010/2011; they include; Economic Development, Quality of Life, Community Engagement, Financial Stability, and Regional Leadership. Handouts were given that gave individual Councilmember comments and suggestions that responded to each area of focus.

5. Hear an update, discuss and provide direction on items presented by the:

a. Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team

- Review, discuss and provide direction on the March 24, 2010 Human Relations Advisory Board presentations on the impact of non-traditional caring relationships regarding medical situations.
 - Review findings
 - Conclusion
 - Plan of action
 - Recommendations to the Human Relations Advisory Board

Ms. Gilbert informed the board that on April 12, 2010, the team unanimously concluded that the Domestic Partner Registry does not effectively meet the healthcare needs.

Ms. Dillon made a motion to accept the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team that the City Council not adopt a domestic partner registry in Mesa at this time. Mr. Cuillard seconded the motion. Ms. Heap stated that the April 15, 2010 memorandum to the Secretary of Health and Human Services issued by President Obama may address many of the concerns that the board has regarding a domestic partner registry. However, the board may need to come back to this issue at a later date. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Heap made a motion to accept the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team to begin exploring a non-discrimination ordinance. Mr. Woods seconded the motion. Ms. Dillon suggested this research could be conducted and later melded into what was the Hate Crimes Ad Hoc Team. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Berumen gave everyone a draft copy of the City Council Report summarizing the HRAB's review and recommendations regarding the adoption of a domestic partner registry in Mesa. The HRAB Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team will meet to discuss any corrections at their May 10, 2010, meeting.

- Give an update on recognizing returning veterans to Mesa.

Ms. Gilbert informed the board that at the April 12, 2010 Ad Hoc meeting, a motion was made by Ms. Heap, seconded by Ms. Dillon and carried unanimously that the Team will write a proposal that will allow the Team to move forward on researching ways to recognize returning veterans to Mesa.

No action was taken.

- Give an update on the strategy to identify best practices for community response to hate crimes and assess Mesa's response.

Ms. Heap explained that at the April 12, 2010 Ad Hoc meeting, discussion was held concerning major hate and/or bias crimes happening in Mesa. Ms. Heap stated that recommendations were made to have the HRAB Chair or Vice Chair send out the Human Relations Commission (HRC) Statement of Tolerance when a major hate or bias crime is committed.

Ms. Gilbert made a motion that the HRC Statement be read or sent to media if a major hate or bias crime occurs in Mesa. Ms. Heap seconded the motion. Ms. Dillon suggested that the Ad Hoc team could incorporate the "Not in Our Town" campaign with this statement in the future. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Ad Hoc Marketing Strategies Project Team

- Give an update on projects and goals for 2010.

Ms. Dillon informed the board that the Ad Hoc Team would like to spruce up the HRAB logo and produce a new HRAB brochure. Ms. Dillon made a motion that would allow the Ad Hoc Marketing Strategies Project Team to produce a new HRAB brochure and logo. Ms. Gilbert seconded the motion. Ms. Berumen will look into the HRAB Web page and will report back to the board. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Dillon informed the board that the Ad Hoc Team would like to continue to contact and extend invitations to those emerging communities found by the Diversity Office. The team will update the contact information already gathered and will continue to find communities that have made Mesa their home site. Ms. Gilbert recommended contacting the Arizona Republic about an article "Getting To Know Your Neighbors".

c. Ad Hoc Committee on Disabilities

- Give an update on projects and goals for 2010.

Mr. Cuillard informed the board that the Ad Hoc Team will research the best ways to inform the HRAB and community about disabilities issues happening within the city.

Mr. Cuillard also informed the board that the Ad Hoc Team would like to research Mesa's Meals on Wheels program. Ms. Berumen suggested contacting the City's Transportation department regarding budget impacts to services and programs being provided.

- Give an update on the board assigned task of speaking with Mesa Public Schools to assist author, Steve Isham.

No updates were given.

6. Diversity Officer's Report:

a. Hear an update on the Diversity Office and Neighborhood Outreach Office activities.

- Building Strong Neighborhood Initiative

The last Building Strong Neighborhood Initiative for 2009/2010 is May 6, 2010, for Council District 5. The kick-off meeting will be held at Fremont Junior High. Mayor Scott Smith and Councilmember Dina Higgins are scheduled to speak.

- Fair Housing and Disability Conference sponsored by the City of Mesa Diversity Office and Housing and Community Revitalization will be held on May 10 and 11, 2010.

This year's conference is free and open to anyone interested in fair housing and disability awareness.

7. Report on conferences and/or meetings attended.

Ms. Heap attended the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) Consortium in Phoenix. The group discussed strategic goals, branding and image.

Ms. Dillon attended the Grand Opening of the Women of Power International, Betty Ballard Lighthouse Women's Resource Center. More information regarding this center can be found here: http://www.wopim.org/lighthouse_services.php.

Ms. Gilbert attended the April Healing Racism Series whose speakers included HRAB board member Everett Woods. Mr. Woods representing the Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Celebration Committee and members of the Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens (MAHC) discussed how they have been able to work together and help rebuild the Alston House in Mesa.

Ms. Dillon and several other board members attended the Mayor's Advisory Gathering.

8. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

a. Board meeting schedule, including summer and winter break

Ms. Berumen updated the board that the May 26, 2010 board meeting will be conducted as planned.

The board determined not to hold HRAB or Ad Hoc Team meetings for June and July, 2010. The next regular HRAB meeting will be August 25, 2010.

b. 2010-11 Human Relations Advisory Board Chair and Vice Chair positions

The board determined they will select and vote for new Chair and Vice Chair positions at the May 26, 2010 meeting.

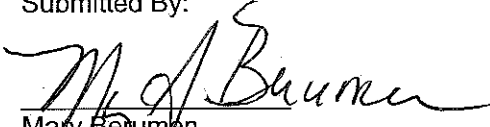
Mr. Woods updated the board on the completion of the Alston House; Mr. Woods informed the board of the significance of Dr. Alston in Mesa and his contributions to members in his community. The MLK Jr. Celebration Committee and MAHC are looking for donations to help furnish the Alston House. A Grand Opening is scheduled for September 2010.

9. Adjourn

Ms. Benelli adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:54 p.m.

***The next regular meeting is on May 26, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.
Lower Level, City Council Chambers.***

Submitted By:


Mary Benumen,
Diversity Office Director